

down Broad Street they so well deserve. Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for and devotion to Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship. While we have a reputation of being somewhat rough around the edges, Philadelphia fans are enthusiastic about sports and fiercely loyal to our teams. We also have a reputation for not resting on our laurels and demanding a lot from those players and coaches privileged to wear our teams' uniforms. I therefore urge my Phillies to keep fighting and bring home another title next year.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions, to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 712) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 712

Whereas, on October 29, 2008, the Philadelphia Phillies defeated the Tampa Bay Rays to win the 2008 World Series;

Whereas the 4 to 3 Phillies victory in Game 5 of the Fall Classic secured for Philadelphia a World Series title for the first time since 1980, and for the second time in team history;

Whereas the Tampa Bay Rays deserve congratulations for a stellar 2008 season, in which, after 10 consecutive losing seasons, they posted a regular season record of 97-65 and won the American League Championship Series;

Whereas Tampa Bay Rays Manager and Hazelton, Pennsylvania-native Joe Maddon established himself as among the premier managers in Major League Baseball during the 2008 season, and aptly was named American League Manager of the Year;

Whereas Philadelphia sports fans have consistently demonstrated their love for, and devotion to, Philadelphia teams, even after 25 years without winning a major sports championship;

Whereas, since taking the helm as manager in 2005, Phillies Manager Charlie Manuel has guided the young Phillies team to become the best in Major League Baseball;

Whereas recently retired General Manager Pat Gillick, who joined the Phillies in 2006, played an integral role in assembling the World Series-winning team;

Whereas 24-year old pitcher Cole Hamels was named the Most Valuable Player for both the National League Championship Series and the World Series, with a 4-0 record and 1.80 Earned Run Average in the post-season;

Whereas starting pitchers Cole Hamels, Brett Myers, Joe Blanton, and Souderton, Pennsylvania-native Jamie Moyer delivered outstanding performances throughout the post-season;

Whereas the Phillies' bullpen distinguished itself as among the greatest in Major League Baseball, particularly closer Brad Lidge, who finished the 2008 season with 48 out of 48 save opportunities, including the final game of the World Series;

Whereas the Phillies were led by a talented and tough group of players including: 2006 MVP Ryan Howard; All-Star Chase Utley; 2007 MVP and 2007 and 2008 Gold Glove winner Jimmy Rollins; third baseman Pedro

Feliz; veteran outfielder Pat Burrell; 2008 Gold Glove winner, the "Flyin' Hawaiian", Shane Victorino; outfielder Jayson Werth; and catcher Carlos Ruiz;

Whereas numerous reserve players made significant contributions to the Phillies' World Series title run, including Geoff Jenkins, Chris Coste, Eric Bruntlett, Greg Dobbs, and Matt Stairs; and

Whereas more than 1,000,000 fans packed the streets of Philadelphia on October 31, 2008 for a parade along Market and Broad Streets ending at Citizens Bank Park;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Philadelphia Phillies for winning the 2008 World Series;

(B) the Phillies manager, coaches, and support staff, whose commitment to the Phillies franchise has sustained this proud organization and allowed the team to reach the pinnacle of success in 2008;

(C) all Phillies fans, whose tenacity, perseverance, and enthusiasm are matched only by that of the team to which the fans are dedicated; and

(D) the Tampa Bay Rays on an outstanding 2008 season; and

(2) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Phillies manager Charlie Manuel;

(B) Phillies general manager Ruben Amaro, Jr.;

(E) Phillies advisor Pat Gillick.

CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE AND LASTING SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 713, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 713) calling on all parties to the escalating violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to implement an immediate ceasefire and work with the support of the international community toward a comprehensive and lasting solution to this crisis.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern about the rapidly deteriorating situation in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Over recent weeks, eastern Congo has been making international headlines since new fighting broke out between the Congolese military and rebels loyal to General Laurent Nkunda. The rebels overran several government military bases and major towns as they surrounded the strategic city of Goma. Meanwhile, the Congolese military—a feckless force that often rapes and pillages the very people it is meant to protect—retreated, leaving UN peacekeepers to fend off the rebels' advance and attempt to protect civilians. Fortunately, the rebels stopped before marching on Goma, but the situation remains extremely volatile.

I traveled last year to the very region, North Kivu Province, where this violence is taking place and saw firsthand the grave suffering of people who have lived through a decade of conflict and humanitarian crisis. The numbers are staggering: an estimated 5.4 million deaths over the last decade and 1,500 people still dying each day. In addition, millions have been displaced from their homes, living in squalid camps where children are subject to forced recruitment and women suffer unspeakable levels of sexual violence.

In my travels to many parts of Africa over the years, the suffering of women and girls in eastern Congo particularly stands out. I met with women and girls who had been gang raped, often leaving them with irreparable physical and psychological damage. I met with women who had lost their husbands, their homes, and their livelihoods and yet against all odds they refused to give up—if only for the sake of their children. There may be no worse place to be female than eastern Congo. And yet it is the strength of these women that continues to give hope.

The renewed fighting in eastern Congo is worrisome not only because it will further exacerbate this humanitarian tragedy, but also because it risks engulfing the neighboring countries in a new regional war. Last month, the Congolese Government accused Rwanda of sending troops across the border in support of Nkunda's forces. The rebels in turn have recently alleged that Angolan and even Zimbabwean troops are supporting the Congolese military. Despite vows by these governments to avoid another regional conflict, tensions remain high. It is not hard to imagine a minor incident sparking a repeat of 1998 when at least six neighboring countries were drawn into Congo's war.

Such a scenario would destabilize the Great Lakes region of Africa. Over recent years, the United States and our international partners have made significant investments—both financial and diplomatic—to assist in consolidating peace and restoring the rule of law in this region. No one wants to see those investments lost and the progress made reversed, and we may not have to. If we take bold and strategic action now, we can prevent a new regional conflict and revive the peace process in eastern Congo.

I was pleased that our top diplomat for Africa, Jendayi Frazer, traveled to the region with high-level diplomats from the UK and France 2 weeks ago. In addition, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon convened an emergency summit of regional leaders in Nairobi. But this diplomatic engagement must remain consistent and get all key actors, including Rwanda, to commit to a clear roadmap for implementing the already signed peace agreements. To be successful, we must also establish monitoring and verification mechanisms to hold the parties accountable and challenge the continued culture of impunity.

At the same time, while achieving a political solution is vital to ending the crisis in eastern Congo, the international community should also take measures to help protect civilians and enforce a ceasefire in the short term. The UN Secretary General has called for an additional 3,000 troops and police specially trained and equipped for rapid response to reinforce the peacekeeping force in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC. The United States and other Security Council members should act immediately to fulfill those requests. In addition, the Security Council should clarify MONUC's mandate to prioritize civilian protection and conflict prevention in the east and ensure it is implemented equally by all brigades. A renewed MONUC will not only save lives, but can also deter military involvement from neighboring countries.

Ultimately though, lasting peace in eastern Congo and the wider region will require measures to transform the underlying causes of conflict. The continued exploitation of Congo's rich mineral base, particularly cassiterite, coltan, and gold, makes war a profitable enterprise. The international community should work with governments in the region to bring greater transparency and regulation to the trade in these minerals. The next administration and Congress must look seriously at how the United States can contribute meaningfully to this process as it is a critical step toward the larger goal of reforming Congo's economic and political institutions.

Congo has vast potential and its stability can have a positive impact across Africa. We have made notable progress in that direction over recent years, but we are once again standing at a precipice. In the face of a potential regional war, we can no longer rely on piecemeal tactics and half-measures. It is time for a comprehensive and concerted international effort to ensure protection and basic rights for all Congo's people. It is for that reason that I am today introducing a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in eastern Congo and a comprehensive solution to this crisis. I am pleased to introduce this resolution with the distinguished senior Senator from Kansas, who has long been a champion on this issue, and I hope our colleagues will join us in this urgent plea for peace.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 713) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 713

Whereas the Democratic Republic of Congo was devastated by civil wars lasting from 1996 to 1997 and 1998 to 2003, spawning some of the world's worst human rights violations and involving at least 6 neighboring countries;

Whereas, despite the signing of a peace agreement and subsequent withdrawal of foreign forces in 2003, eastern Congo has continued to suffer from high levels of poverty, insecurity, and absent or inadequate institutions, allowing armed and criminal groups to operate freely;

Whereas continuing abuses committed by the national military against civilians in Congo and apparent ties between the military and armed groups in the region have tainted attempts to restore the rule of law in the eastern region of the country;

Whereas, according to a study by the International Rescue Committee released in January 2008, the conflict and related humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo have taken the lives of an estimated 5,400,000 people since 1998 and continue to cause as many as 45,000 deaths each month;

Whereas sexual violence and rape remain a pervasive tool of warfare used by all parties in eastern Congo to terrorize communities, affecting hundreds of thousands of women and girls and frequently resulting in traumatic fistula and other severe genital injuries;

Whereas the continued plunder and trade of eastern Congo's rich mineral base, notably cassiterite, coltan, and gold, by armed groups and members of the national military make war profitable and undermine peace efforts;

Whereas the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda signed the Nairobi Communiqué in November 2007, committing to work together to address the continued activity of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and other armed groups operating in their shared border region;

Whereas, on January 23, 2008, with the active support of the international community, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and 22 armed groups in the eastern region signed the Goma accord, committing to an immediate ceasefire and buffer zones for troop disengagement and ultimately disarmament;

Whereas these agreements together provided the first working framework in years for peace and lasting stability in eastern Congo, but a continued culture of impunity and suspicion has impeded their implementation;

Whereas the United Nations reported more than 200 violations of these agreements between January and July of 2008, as well as 2,000 cases of rape and hundreds of people killed;

Whereas hate speech inciting ethnic violence by local and national leaders in Congo continued during this period, feeding the concerns and perceived insecurity of minority Tutsi communities;

Whereas, since August 28, 2008, fighting has resumed in North Kivu Province between the national military and the forces of General Laurent Nkunda, known as the National Congress for the Defense of the People, the latter of which has taken control of several government military bases and major towns around the city of Goma;

Whereas, according to Human Rights Watch, an estimated 250,000 people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of this renewed fighting in eastern Congo, often without access to shelter, water, food, and medicine, and adding to the over 1,000,000 people already displaced from North and South Kivu;

Whereas the United Nations Mission in Congo, known by its French acronym MONUC, has proven unable to protect civilians in light of this new offensive by General Nkunda's forces, causing resentment and protests by local communities;

Whereas allegations of troops from Angola, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe crossing into eastern Congo have strained existing regional tensions and increased fears of a wider war that could draw other countries from the region into the fighting, as happened in 1998;

Whereas the United Nations' Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Alan Doss, and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon have called for more troops and better capabilities for MONUC to stop the rebel offensive and protect civilians;

Whereas United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, on November 7, 2008, and convened a summit of regional leaders, including the heads of state of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, which led to a joint statement calling for an immediate ceasefire and the creation of humanitarian corridors; and

Whereas, in 2006, Congress passed the Democratic Republic of the Congo Relief, Security, and Democracy Promotion Act of 2006, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 22, 2006 (Public Law 109-456), stating that it is the policy of the United States to work for peace and security throughout the Democratic Republic of Congo by supporting efforts to protect civilians, to disarm illegal armed groups, and to hold accountable individuals, entities, and countries working to destabilize the country: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the continuing violence, forcible recruitment of children as soldiers, and abuses against civilians in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo;

(2) calls on the national military in Congo, the National Congress for the Defense of the People, and all armed groups operating in eastern Congo to cease hostilities, end all human rights abuses, and respect an immediate ceasefire based on the principles of the Goma agreement;

(3) calls on the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet its obligations under the Lusaka Agreement of 1999, the Pretoria Agreement of 2002, and the Nairobi Communiqué of 2007 to take action to end the threat posed by the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda;

(4) calls on the Governments of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda—

(A) to fully restore bilateral relations;

(B) to work together to mitigate escalating tensions in the region; and

(C) to break any ties that still exist between them and illegal armed groups in eastern Congo;

(5) calls on all governments in the Great Lakes region of Africa and those of the Southern African Development Community to support a peaceful resolution to the crisis while ensuring that the volatile situation does not spark a wider regional war;

(6) supports the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General, his newly appointed United Nations Special Envoy, former President of Nigeria Olusegun Obasanjo, and the international facilitation team to bring all parties to the negotiating table and establish a clear roadmap to implement the signed peace agreements;

(7) encourages the international community to take immediate measures to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in Congo to protect civilians, specifically through increased troops and additional capabilities as requested by the Secretary-General;

(8) urges the President to sustain high-level diplomatic engagement together with the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations to avert a wider regional war and revive a comprehensive peace process in eastern Congo;

(9) urges the United States and the international community to develop and support monitoring and verification mechanisms that can hold the parties in Congo accountable to the signed peace agreements, investigate alleged ceasefire violations, and ultimately challenge the continued culture of impunity in Congo; and

(10) urges the President and the international community to adopt measures to help the regional governments to identify and ultimately address the factors underlying the conflict in eastern Congo, especially weak governance and the exploitation of the region's lucrative minerals.

HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY WORKERS IN CALIFORNIA IN 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 714, which was submitted earlier today by Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 714) honoring the firefighters and emergency workers who courageously fought fires in California in 2008.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 714) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 714

Whereas, in 2008, there have been more than 10,000 wildfires in California started by natural causes and human activity;

Whereas more than 1,440,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California burned in 2008;

Whereas, in June 2008, fires started by lightning strikes burned approximately 1,200,000 acres of Federal, State, and local land in California, making the June fires the largest single wildfire event in California's recorded history;

Whereas 41 counties across California were impacted by wildfires in 2008;

Whereas more than 1,400 homes were destroyed by fires in California in 2008;

Whereas State and local firefighters have been called to duty for increasingly long fire seasons, working on the front lines of these fires for weeks;

Whereas firefighters have risked their lives and endured great hardship to protect lives, property, and the environment in California;

Whereas many firefighters were injured and 14 firefighters tragically lost their lives in California in 2008;

Whereas 25,000 firefighters and emergency response personnel from California, 41 other States, and other nations worked side-by-side to fight the wildfires;

Whereas members of the National Guard from California and other States provided essential support to the firefighting effort; and

Whereas the people of California and the United States recognize the steadfast dedication of the firefighters throughout the ongoing fire suppression and subsequent repair and rebuilding efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the firefighters and emergency workers from California, 41 other States, and other nations for their courageous actions and sacrifices in fighting wildfires in California;

(2) supports the continued work of firefighters to protect National Forest System land, other public lands, and private property from further damage;

(3) praises the people of California for their great courage in the face of the fires; and

(4) extends heartfelt sympathy to the people who have lost loved ones, homes, and businesses in the wildfires.

SENATE NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) extending the authority for the Senate National Security Working Group.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD, without further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 715

Resolved, That Senate Resolution 105 of the One Hundred First Congress, 1st session (agreed to on April 13, 1989), as amended by Senate Resolution 149 of the One Hundred Third Congress, 1st session (agreed to on October 5, 1993), as further amended by Senate Resolution 75 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 1st session (agreed to on March 25, 1999), as further amended by Senate Resolution 383 of the One Hundred Sixth Congress, 2d session (agreed to on October 27, 2000), as further amended by Senate Resolution 355 of the One Hundred Seventh Congress, 2d session (agreed to on November 13, 2002), as further amended by Senate Resolution 480 of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, 2d session (agreed to November 20, 2004), and as further amended by Senate Resolution 625 of the One Hundred Ninth Congress, 2d Session (agreed to on December 6, 2006), is further amended in section 4 by striking "2008" and inserting "2010".

REMOVAL OF INJUNCTION OF SECRECY—TREATY DOCUMENT NO. 110-23

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the injunction of secrecy be removed from the following treaty transmitted to the Senate on November 20, 2008, by the President of the United States: Investment Treaty with Rwanda, Treaty Document No. 110-23. I further ask unanimous consent that the treaty be considered as having been read the first time; that it be referred, with accompanying papers, to the Committee on Foreign Relations and ordered to be printed; and that the President's message be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The message of the President is as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, with a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to ratification, the Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda Concerning the Encouragement and Reciprocal Protection of Investment, signed at Kigali on February 19, 2008. I transmit also, for the information of the Senate, the report prepared by the Department of State with respect to the Treaty.

This is the first bilateral investment treaty (BIT) concluded between the United States and a sub-Saharan African country since 1998. The Treaty will help to promote cross-border investment by providing legal protections for investors of each country for their investments in the other country. The Treaty underscores the shared commitment of both countries to open investment and trade policies.

Rwanda has opened its economy, improved its business climate, and embraced trade and investment as a means to boost economic development and help alleviate poverty. The U.S.-Rwanda BIT will reinforce these efforts.

The Treaty is fully consistent with U.S. policy to secure protections for U.S. investment abroad and to welcome foreign investment in the United States. Under this Treaty, the Parties agree to accord national treatment and most-favored nation treatment to investments. They also agree to customary international law standards for expropriation and for the minimum standard of treatment. The Treaty includes detailed provisions regarding the payment of prompt, adequate, and effective compensation in the event of expropriation; free transfer of funds related to investment; freedom of investment from specified performance requirements; prohibitions on nationality based restrictions for the hiring of senior managers; and the opportunity for investors to resolve disputes with a host government through international arbitration. The Treaty also